



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC**

October 19, 2020

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig  
Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Commissioner Rettig,

We write to raise concerns over recurring errors by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in distributing the Economic Impact Payments (EIP) authorized in the CARES Act. We request your immediate attention to the misclassification of recipient's eligibility for EIPs, the lack of transparency and clarity on unresolved EIP cases, and an update on how you are working to address the concerns raised in a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report.

As you are aware, the GAO report released in September, warned that millions of Americans are in danger of not receiving EIPs due to incomplete or outdated government records. Our offices have fielded hundreds of complaints from constituents whose EIPs have been denied or delayed due to such inadequacies. Of special concern are the households whose payments were denied due to a mis-recorded or out-of-date dependency status. To our great frustration, the IRS has refused to provide such individuals any mode of redress, even when our constituents have produced documentation verifying their claims. This refusal is made even more galling by the IRS's admission that, *"There may have been a system error when processing [the] return to cause this issue."*

Similar concerns have been raised about Americans being denied over mis-recorded immigration statuses and out-of-date income information, as well as receiving incorrect payments because duly claimed dependents were improperly omitted.

Equally troubling is the IRS's assertion that it is incapable of issuing payments to individuals who can prove they were improperly disqualified. Even when our constituent service teams have

proven that the IRS's rationale was factually invalid, the IRS has stated that the constituent must wait until 2021 to collect payment. It is an unconscionable violation of your agency's responsibility to the American people for the IRS to tell struggling Americans that they must wait another year for this much needed stimulus check.

We request your immediate attention to these issues and call on the IRS to take corrective action to address the lack of transparency in unresolved EIP cases. Furthermore, we request your immediate attention to the following questions:

- 1) What documentation does the IRS use to determine a taxpayer's dependency status?
- 2) What documentation would the IRS accept to overturn such a determination?
- 3) What proactive protocols are in place to protect Americans from being fraudulently claimed as dependents?
- 4) Why is the IRS claiming payments cannot be processed even when presented with clear evidence that they improperly disqualified someone from receiving an EIP?

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter; we would like to emphasize the importance of ensuring that all outstanding EIPs—including those that have been delayed through no fault of the individual—are delivered to Americans as soon as possible, and no later than December 31, 2020.

We request confirmation of your receipt of this letter, as well as your response to our questions, by November 1, 2020.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress

/s/ Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

/s/ Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress

/s/ Ed Case  
Member of Congress

/s/ Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

/s/ Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

/s/ James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

/s/ Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

/s/ Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

/s/ Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/ Abby Finkenauer  
Member of Congress

/s/ Max Rose  
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

/s/ Elaine G. Luria  
Member of Congress

/s/ Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

/s/ Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

/s/ Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

/s/ TJ Cox  
Member of Congress

/s/ John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

/s/ Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

/s/ Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

/s/ Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/ Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

/s/ Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

/s/ Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

/s/ Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

/s/ Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

/s/ Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

/s/ Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

/s/ Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

/s/ Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

/s/ Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

/s/ Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

/s/ Andy Kim  
Member of Congress

/s/ Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

/s/ Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

/s/ J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

/s/ Nydia M. Velazquez  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

/s/ André Carson  
Member of Congress